TRENDS

ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

Office of Information
and Public Affairs
50 F Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20001
(202) 639-2555

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, May 21, 1987 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended May 16 totaled an estimated 17.8 billion ton-miles, 5.9 percent above the corresponding week of 1986, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 20 weeks of 1987 was an estimated 338.5 billion ton-miles, up 1.1 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended May 16 totaled 399,538, up 2.4 percent from the corresponding week of last year, and 1.0 percent above the preceding week. Compared with last year, loadings were up 1.9 percent in the East and 3.0 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 14 of the 21 major commodity groups increased. Grain showed a gain of 8,567 cars (47.1 percent), however, metallic ores decreased by 7,998 cars (34.5 percent). Twelve of the 21 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended May 9 totaled 98,276 trailers and/or containers, 2.4 percent above last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 19 weeks of the year was 1,818,168 trailers and/or containers, up 2.8 percent from 1986.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 5/16/87:

	Loadings in Week ended May 16, 1987		Change from Corresponding Week 1986			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	26,756	I	8,567	47.1	I	2,416	9.9
Other farm products	3,997	D	5	0.1	I	212	5.6
Metallic ores	15,188	D	7,998	34.5	D	2,747	15.3
Coal	111,684	I	1,059	1.0	I	5,307	5.0
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	15,828	I	704	4.7	I	120	0.8
Nonmetallic minerals	11,508	I	1,188	11.5	I	844	7.9
Grain mill products	11,028	I	557	5.3	I	119	1.1
Food and kindred products	10,876	D	138	1.3	D	56	0.5
Primary forest products	10,905	I	725	7.1	D	242	2.2
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,493	I	392	4.8	I	254	3.1
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,149	D	1,194	8.9	D	329	2.6
Chemicals and allied products	25,585	I	754	3.0	D	518	2.0
Petroleum products	4,981	I	70	1.4	I	201	4.2
Stone, clay and glass products	11,349	I	561	5.2	I	276	2.5
Coke	5,001	I	413	9.0	D	82	1.6
Metals and products	9,131	I	526	6.1	I	151	1.7
Motor vehicles and equipment	20,706	D	1,284	5.8	D	12	0.1
Waste and scrap materials	8,597	I	249	3.0	I	432	5.3
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,821	D	63	2.2	I	28	1.0
All other carloads	72,873	I	4,317	6.3	D	2,263	3.0
LCL traffic	82	D	22	21.2	D	32	28.1
Total Cars Loaded	399,538	I	9,378	2.4	I	4,079	1.0
Corresponding week of 1986	390,160						

	1987	1986	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (20 weeks)	7,597,674	7,521,261	I 1.0
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
19 Weeks ended May 9	320.7	318.0	I 0.8
Week ended May 16	17.8	16.8	I 5.9
20 Weeks cumulative	338.5	334.8	I 1.1

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